

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 15-30 remain in the application. Claim 30 has been amended.

In item 5 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Reference numerals have been added to Fig. 5 to particularly show the first section (100) and the second section (102) of the second terminal zone (60). Corresponding text has been added to the specification. Support for the changes can be found by referring to claim 25, to Fig. 5 and to page 15, lines 15-22 of the translated specification.

Regarding claim 25, please see Fig. 5, for example, which shows the following features:

said second terminal zone (60) has a first section (100) extending vertically to said second layer (26);

said second layer (26) laterally extends at a level; and

said second terminal zone (60) has a second section (102) extending laterally at said level of said second layer (26).

Reference can also be made to page 7, lines 26-27 and to page 15, lines 15-22 of the translated specification.

Regarding claim 26, please see Fig. 8 for example, which shows the following features:

said first section and said second section of said second terminal zone (60) form a well-like structure enclosing said first terminal zone (40; 40A, 40B, 40C, 40D) and at least some of said compensation zones (30).

Reference can also be made to page 16, line 28 through page 17, line 3 of the translated specification.

Regarding claim 27, please see Fig. 5, for example, which shows the following features:

said second terminal zone (60) has a first section (100) extending vertically to said second layer (26); and

said second terminal zone (60) has a second section (102) extending laterally near said second layer (26).

Reference can also be made to page 7, lines 26-27 and to page 15, lines 15-22 of the translated specification.

In item 6 on page 3 of the above-identified Office action, the specification has been objected to for failing to provide antecedent basis for claim 29.

Page 5 of the specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for claim 29.

In item 8 on page 3 of the above-identified Office action, claims 25-29 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is believed that this matter should now be clear by referring to the portions of the specification referenced above with regard to the object to the drawings and by referring to the added reference characters 100 and 102.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above noted changes to the claims are provided

solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 10 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 29 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of application 10/033,122.

MPEP 804 II (B) (1) states:

Any obviousness-type double patenting rejection should make clear:

(A) The differences between the inventions defined by the conflicting claims - a claim in the patent compared to a claim in the application; and

(B) The reasons why a person of ordinary skill in the art would conclude that the invention defined in the claim in issue is an obvious variation of the invention defined in a claim in the patent.

When considering whether the invention defined in a claim of an application is an obvious variation of the invention defined in the claim of a patent, the disclosure of the patent may not be used as prior art. This does not mean that one is precluded from all use of the patent disclosure.

The Examiner has not satisfied requirements A and B and is respectfully requested to do so, so that applicant can

ascertain whether or not the Examiner's reasoning has any merit.

As of now, applicant believes that the claims in the present application are not obvious over claims 1-12 of application 10/033,122.

Claims 1-12 of U.S. application No 10/033,122 do not teach or suggest the invention defined by claim 15 in the present application. Claim 15 of the instant application defines a semiconductor component with three layers, namely a substrate of a first conduction type, a first layer of a second conduction type, and a second layer of the second conduction type configured between the substrate and the compensation zones formed in the first layer. The three layer configuration is not an obvious variation of the previously claimed two layer configuration. The Examiner has not given any support for such an allegation, and in fact has not made such an allegation.

In item 12 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 15 and 22 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kouno et al. (6,365,932) in view of Ueno (6,512,268) under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 15 defines a semiconductor component including, inter alia, compensation zones of said first conduction type formed in said first layer.

Kouno et al. do not teach compensation zones.

The p-doped zone 117 in the n-doped semiconductor layer 106 in Fig. 2 of Kouno et al. is not a compensation zone. The p-doped zone 117 is connected via a stronger p-doped zone 118 to the source electrode 114 to form a diode parallel to the drain-source path of the MOSFET.

In item 12 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 16-19 and 30 have been rejected as being obvious over Kouno et al.

(6,365,932) in view of Ueno (6,512,268) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Even if it would have been obvious to combine the cited references, the invention as defined by claims 16-19 would not have been obtained for the reasons specified above with regard to claim 15.

Claim 30 has been amended to include the compensation zones defined in claim 15. Support for the change can be found by referring to Fig. 1 or to claim 15. Kouno et al. and Ueno do

not suggest the configuration, including the compensation zones, defined by claim 30.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 15 or 30. Claims 15 and 30 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-30 are solicited.

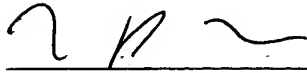
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, he is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

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Respectfully submitted,



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MPW:cgm

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